

National Art Gallery lists Boyes-Sitler

by Matthew Sitler

One of Muskoka's finest oil painters is thrilled that her vintage Muskoka scenes have been recorded for posterity at two of Canada's leading art institutions.

Gwendolyn Boyes-Sitler says she has worked hard over the years at cultivating her artistic talents, and is proud she has now been officially counted among Canada's recognized painters.

"I feel that I'm one of the fortunate ones who discovered my passion for painting early in life and have had the opportunity to develop it for many years," she stated.

Boyes-Sitler, who resides in Vankoughnet, was approached by fellow Vankoughnet resident/art consultant Bob Britnell about the opportunity to compile her biographical information for the National Art Gallery of Canada in Ottawa and the Art Gallery of Ontario.

"When Mr. Britnell approached me about putting together a biography of my work, I would never

have believed there was sufficient material for an entire book," she said.

Britnell followed the format and criteria set out by the National Gallery of Canada in order to compile the biography.

"Through his diligence, he has compiled a comprehensive account of my life as an artist and I feel very proud of the results," she adds.

Boyes-Sitler only heard last week that her biography had been accepted.

"Thank-you for your generous gift of a biography on Gwendolyn Boyes-Sitler," wrote Peter Trepanier, head of reader services at the National Gallery's library and archives, in a letter addressed to Britnell. "It is certainly more extensive than we would compile and we are pleased to add it to our artists file collection."

Britnell says he personally only knows of one other Muskoka artist (Hartley Boyes) who shares this distinction.

Boyes-Sitler's name will also appear in the next edi-



ARTIST RECOGNITION. Vankoughnet artist Gwendolyn Boyes-Sitler has been recognized in a comprehensive list of Canadian artists published by National Art Gallery staff in Ottawa.

Photo by Matthew Sitler

tion of the gallery's book *Artist's in Canada*, which is a comprehensive list of thousands of Canadian artists.

Her biography has also been accepted by the Art Gallery of Ontario, and is presently in the Edward P. Taylor Research Library in

Toronto.

"It is absolutely thrilling for me to be accepted as a Canadian artist, and to have been recognized by these prestigious art institutions," she said.

Gwendolyn Boyes-Sitler is Matthew Sitler's mother.